



JUN - SEP 23

YOUNG

CHRISTIAN WRITER

Look INSIDE For:
**Limerick Competition
Results!**

Article

***Voices of Hope: Why Young
Writers are Important***
by Dan Balow

***Dreams: How Significant are
They?*** **by Maureen Tearle**

***What Office is Yours and
How Will You Write for it?***
by Kathryn Paul

New Writing Competition
For writers up to 25 years
of age.

Fun Quiz!

And more!

A magazine of NZ Christian Writers

Young Christian Writer

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Send in your writing to be published in *Young Christian Writer* magazine! We will publish as many as space allows. Email your writing to Kathryn at ycwmag@nzchristianwriters.org

Website:

View our website for how to join and to view copies of past magazines. Paying subscribers with published items can have a free profile page on our site to promote their work. Please encourage other young Christian writers you know to join us via our website:

www.nzchristianwriters.org

President's Note

Welcome to our JUN-SEP 2023 edition of *Young Christian Writer* magazine.

Our Facebook community is growing! We currently have around 300 members online and it continues to attract writers of all ages throughout New Zealand. Young Christian writers may find additional encouragement, inspiration, and support from this online community. If you use Facebook, join us here: www.facebook.com/groups/newzealandchristianwriters

In addition, if you happen to know of other Christian writers in your community, feel free to recommend they join our Facebook page to find out more about us; or even point them to our website to explore our Writer Profiles and Book Features. Through our website they will discover how they can become a member of NZ Christian Writers and a magazine subscriber: www.nzchristianwriters.org.

As a younger Christian writer, it would have been helpful for me to have a guide or resource to help me with my writing, especially punctuation. We now have a free download for all our *Young Christian Writer* readers. We've revised and updated *Powerful Punctuation*, a writing resource compiled by member, Jan Pendergrast and revised by Janette Busch and others. You are welcome to download the PDF eBook edition of this reference guide which is especially helpful for beginner writers. Simply search *Powerful Punctuation* at: www.nzchristianwriters.org. Write on!

Justin St. Vincent, President, NZ Christian Writers



"Hi!" From the Editor

Hi! I'm so glad you chose to read this magazine today! It doesn't matter where



you are on your writing journey or on your life-journey with God – know this; you're loved by God, you're unique and you have a unique story to bring to the world. Did you know every person has an individual 'writer's voice' which comes through naturally?

I encourage you to write from the heart and have the courage to share it with others. Nobody's writing is perfect the first time it's written down so don't worry about that. Just write your best work and then the proofreading and fine-tuning can be done later.

Have a go at trying different kinds of writing and when you're reading try reading a few different kinds of stories. You might be surprised to discover you like more than one kind of genre. One of my regrets from when I was at school was I didn't try reading a historical novel. I now know I enjoy Christian historical novels and can see it would have been valuable to me as a writer to take history as a subject at school. But at least in English classes I did learn how to research and that has helped me a lot as a writer.

Well done to everyone who had a try at writing a limerick after reading Ruth Linton's article. Keep writing and remember to send me your contributions for the magazine.

With love in Jesus Christ, from Kathryn

Limerick Competition Results

February 2023-May 2023

Congratulations to Josie Stewart! Your entry has won a \$30 Manna Store evoucher!

The competition instructions were:

Write your own limerick and make it fun or funny. Use the examples given in Ruth Linton's article as a guide regarding length, rhythm and rhyme.



Judge: Ruth Linton



There once was a tale of some mice
Who liked to eat lots of ice.
And when it got cold,
The ice became gold,
And, at the market it fetched a great price!

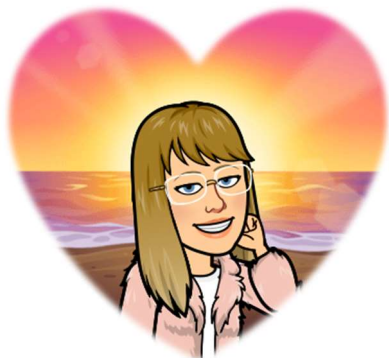
Judge's comments:

Most limericks are written on humorous topics and Josie has done this well. The rhymes—mice, rice, ice and cold and gold in the middle two lines—are excellent.

The rhythm is also good but you do have to be careful how you read the second line. Try to read it as naturally as if you were just talking. It would also be possible to leave out 'And' at the beginning of the final line. It is not needed and I think the rhythm flows more naturally without it.

Notice too I have centred the limerick for you which is the usual setting out in books in the library.

Well done overall. Perhaps you could have fun trying to write more limericks. Your friends might like to try too!



There was a young lady from Greece,
who thought of herself as a priest.
She liked to preach,
on Sumner beach,
wearing her *favorite* fleece.

Judge's comments:

Your limerick rollicks along in a fun-loving way which is common to most good limericks. Well done.

'Greece' and 'fleece' are good rhyming words but priest doesn't really rhyme with them which is a pity. 'Preach' and 'beach' in lines three and four are good rhymes too. However, these two lines are actually too short to fit the limerick pattern. They are to be shorter than lines one, two and five but need an extra syllable. So, see if you can think of something better.

*In the final line I would insert the word 'while' at the beginning as it makes the whole line flow better: 'While wearing her favourite fleece.' Please also note that in New Zealand favorite is spelt **favourite**. (There are other words in US English that leave out the 'u'. It is a good idea to set your computer or phone onto NZ English to avoid these mistakes.)*



Griff: The Dog With Too Many Fish

There was a small dog called Griff,
Who seemed to have all that he
wished.

His house was so full,
That he used his big pool,
To store all his bright orange fish.



Judge's comments

Many limericks are written in a light-hearted humorous way. Taylor entered three and I chose this one as the third placing. Although it reads well the rhyming words do not sound exactly the same. Remember, it is not the spelling of the word but the actual sound that counts. By changing the dog's name to end with the 'sh' sound (perhaps Grish or Trish) and rewriting the second line as. 'Who seemed to have all he could wish' the three rhyming words—Grish, wish and dish—would then be true rhymes.

One other issue I noticed as I re-read the limerick was the final line. The rhythm is not wrong but by re-writing it as 'To store all his bright coloured fish' seems to flow more naturally.

Young Christian Writer magazine is now available in digital format for FREE! Sign up here <http://eepurl.com/hSQOhX>

Note: There is a subscription fee for a printed copy of *Young Christian Writer* magazine. There is also a fee for digital subscriptions that include our other magazine, *The Christian Writer*.

Please see page 15 for those subscription costs and details.



Article Competition

Have a go at entering our new writing competition! Here are the instructions:

- Pick a non-fiction (true) topic you would like to write about.
- Identify a suitable magazine who might like to publish it. For example, an article about fishing would be good for a fishing magazine. An article about horse riding would make sense for a horse magazine. An article about writing for God would work well for this magazine.
- Include a gentle (non-pushy) Christian reference or theme in the article.
- Write the article up to 500 words maximum.
- The article needs to aim to educate and entertain the magazine readers.
- Give your article a title.
- Ensure it's written in your own words and contains true facts. It's wise to research and fact check your article to make sure the content is correct.
- If you're not sure what magazines are available for your topic you can try looking on the magazine shelf in your local supermarket or bookshop or you can look in the magazine section of a library. You can also try searching online. It doesn't have to be a New Zealand magazine.

Send us your article with its title and the name of the magazine it's suitable for.

You don't have to send it for real to the magazine you've written it for, but after our competition is finished, you can do that if you would like to.

Send your entries by email to ycwmag@nzchristianwriters.org with *YCW Article Competition* in the subject line. Include your name, age and area you live in. Maximum age limit for entrants is 25 years old.

**First Prize is a Manna Store eVoucher
valued at \$30.00!**

The last day you are able to send us your entries is:

15 August 2023

Anyone up to age 25 is welcome to enter. There is no minimum age. If we receive a large number of entries we will split the age groups. More than one entry per person is permitted. There is no entry fee. Non-subscribers are welcome to enter. Competition results will be published in the next issue of *Young Christian Writer* magazine.

Voices of Hope: Why Young Writers Are Important



By [Dan Balow](#) on March 22, 2023



In the last month, I suggested some writers who might be worthwhile for the Christian publishing world to give attention. Those with a military or missionary season in their lives could be helpful to the Church today since they both lived a good piece of their lives in positions where personal preference, comfort, and fulfilment were far down on their priority lists.

Submission, courage, faithfulness, a clear idea of the real enemy and a sense of mission might be helpful perspectives for believers now, and both military people and missionaries have these things down cold.

And these days, Christians everywhere are being placed in untenable positions.

Life has never been perfect since Genesis 3—in fact, far from it, even in the best of times. But now, the gloves are off, and it is time for some new perspectives for believers.

Today, a third group that could be helpful for all believers, is young Christian writers.

Why?

They remember the joy of their salvation: As David wrote, “*Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me* (Psalm 51:10-12, NIV).

They have no blind loyalty to human traditions: Jesus warned the Pharisees, “*Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written:*

*‘These people honour me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.*

*They worship me in vain;
their teachings are merely human rules.’*

You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions” (Mark 7:6-8, NIV).

They have not lost hope: Older believers who have experienced much discouragement might shift their focus out of this earth to heaven, often giving up on this life. Young writers may do a better job of balancing the present and future as they have a fresh view of their good Father who is active today and into eternity. “*So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand*” (Isaiah 41:10, NIV).

They are open to being disciplined: Allowing God to change your mind and heart is good for everyone, but younger believers are more like “wet cement” and open to being led properly. “*Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity*” (1 Timothy 4:12, NIV).

Young writers are not exempt from the requirement to write well and have a platform, or at least a good start to one. But certainly using technology is second nature to them, which is helpful.

We know Jesus desires his followers to have a childlike faith, meaning we trust him entirely, love him unconditionally and obey him willingly. Maybe young writers have a better idea of how these things work together in real life. They haven’t lived long enough to develop many bad habits.

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www.stevelaube.com

Dreams – How significant are they?

by Maureen Tearle

Just how significant are our dreams? The Bible seems to put a lot of importance on dreams and records stories of people and how dreams greatly influenced them and their future. These particular dreams were like visions of spectacular events that seemed very strange and unreal but were to be prophetic of the future. An example is Joseph in the Old Testament. As a teenager his dreams of one day becoming a ruler, an important influence, nearly cost him his life. Daniel and Ezekiel had visions and dreams of 'end-times'. Joseph in the New Testament was warned in a dream to escape to safety with his wife, Mary, and baby Jesus.

Dreams can be like missed clues, that carry us beyond the three-dimensional world. We must move beyond the literal objects of the dream and look at what they each symbolise to us. Joseph's dream of sheaths of corn bowing down to the big sheath of corn, portrayed to him a story of himself one day becoming a Governor and all the people bowing down to him. Most of the objects in our dreams are symbols of things that are of importance to us. Vehicles can portray the journey of our lives. People can portray values, usually of someone that is significant to us. It is not necessarily about the person you are dreaming about, but what they symbolise or mean to us.

Money or treasures can portray what is of value to us. The symbols are all facets of our lives. They relate to ourselves, representing parts of ourselves. It is helpful to pray and seek the Lord as to what the meanings of them are and the interpretation of the dream.

Dreams access the real you on a sub-conscious level. They can guide us and instruct us especially when they are showing us that one's life is off kilter or troubling. Fears and anxieties often are portrayed in our dreams as adverse events happening. We can ask ourselves, *What does this represent to me?* We can recognise if there is an imbalance and give that part of ourselves to God to work on.

I was given a particular dream two years ago. In my dream I was dancing and free; I was rejoicing and singing, praising God. Some young people came into the room where I was and I went to them and gave my attention to them. The interpretation that was given me was that the Lord had put it in my heart to minister to young people. Two years later I accepted a job to become a Student Counsellor. The dream showed me that I was to bring joy and freedom into my work from a lifestyle of worship.

Keep a journal of your dreams; write them down as soon as possible when you awake, putting down the theme of the dream. Give it a title if you can. Ask yourself *'What is the focus? Are there colours or feelings? What is the atmosphere? What does each symbol or object mean to me? What insights are there and is the dream reflecting something about me? Are there any actions I need to take in response to the dream?'*



Sweet dreams. Do not underestimate their importance.

What Office is Yours and How will You Write for it?

by Kathryn Paul

Sometimes referred to as 'offices' are the five roles of service in the Bible:

Apostle – Prophet – Evangelist – Pastor – Teacher

Eph 4:11-12 *And [His gifts to the church were varied and] He Himself appointed some as apostles [special messengers, representatives], some as prophets [who speak a new message from God to the people], some as evangelists [who spread the good news of salvation], and some as pastors and teachers [to shepherd and guide and instruct], [and He did this] to fully equip and perfect the saints (God's people) for works of service, to build up the body of Christ [the church]; (Amplified Bible).*

What kind of writing do you think each role requires?

An **apostle**, according to the dictionary, is a pioneering advocate or supporter of a particular cause. The apostle Paul in the New Testament is an example of an apostle. What kinds of writing did Paul do? A lot of the New Testament books were written by him. He wrote letters and explained things. With love he corrected churches when necessary and he clarified misunderstandings so that people would know the truth about Jesus Christ. With passion he dedicated his life to sharing the truth about Jesus, travelling to where the good news hadn't been heard before.

A **prophet**, according to the dictionary, is an inspired teacher or proclaimer of the will of God. There are many examples of prophets in the Bible. Samuel is an example of a person who lived the life of a prophet. It was his role to anoint Saul king and then David king – letting the nation of Israel know this was God's will. What kind of writing did Samuel do? According to an online search Samuel wrote at least two books of the Bible and they are named after him. He made sure the history of God's will was recorded for future generations to read.

An **evangelist** is a person who seeks to share with others the Christian faith. An example from the Bible is Philip the Evangelist. He served in practical ways by helping to care for the needs of others and he shared the good news about Jesus Christ, as he was led to by the Holy Spirit. He raised children including four daughters who the Bible says were able to prophesy. (This means they could share messages of hope from God.) What kind of writing might an evangelist do? Philip's writing is not mentioned but an evangelist can use writing as a form of communication for sharing the Christian faith.

A **pastor** is an overseer of a church group with the goal of helping the people who attend. A pastor is in a supportive role to encourage Christians and disciple new believers. Being a pastor is like being a shepherd. A shepherd cares for and feeds the sheep. What kind of writing does a pastor do? Usually, a pastor will write and prepare a weekly message for the church which spiritually feeds them. Sometimes a pastor will write a book on a specialist topic.

A **teacher** is a person who is able to impart a lesson and provide an environment in which a student can receive education and learn. Jesus Christ was frequently called a teacher. In John 13:13 Jesus said, *“You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you are right in doing so, for that is who I am”* (Amplified version). Jesus often used parables or stories to illustrate His lesson. He used topics or content that the people had experiences with and could relate to, such as planting seed. Jesus mainly spoke his lessons, teaching everyone who came to listen. But His disciples knew it was important to write his lessons down for the future generations to read and learn.

Thinking about these different roles, ask yourself which areas of service could be yours? Also, what kinds of writing might you like to learn to do, to help you carry out your role? Start practising and have a go at the suggestions below:

- You could write to someone a letter explaining about Jesus Christ, like the apostle Paul did.
- You could write a journal or diary entry for the day and record in history what God has done in your life that day. (Like the prophet Samuel).
- You could write your testimony and be prepared to share it with someone, telling them about the good news of Jesus Christ; how it has changed your life and how they too can find this hope. (Evangelist).
- You could write a message to share with a group of Christians which will spiritually feed and nourish them, helping them on their faith journey. (Pastor).
- You could write a learning resource on a specific lesson topic and give it a test run on one or a group of your friends. (Teacher).

Have fun trying out all of the above and see which ones you like best. Remember to pray and ask God to help you write with His love. He wants everyone to know that He loves them!






FUN QUIZ!

Find out which role or roles could be yours:






When you want to communicate with your friends you mostly:

- Send them a detailed message. 
- Visit them. 
- Phone them. 
- Ask someone else to tell them or make a post on social media for all to see. You're too busy with a new challenge! 
- You don't communicate with friends much unless God says to. 






When you get excited about some good news you mostly:

- a. Tell anyone who will listen, even strangers. 
- b. Get the facts then share them in a well-researched article online. 
- c. Record it in a personal journal or diary. 
- d. Pray about it at prayer meeting. 
- e. Share it in the church newsletter. 








When you are on an outreach team or any kind of team you mostly tend to:

- a. Pay attention to how members of the group are doing. 
- b. Keep an eye out for opportunities to share about Jesus. 
- c. Speak up about what you feel God's will is for the team. 
- d. Seek to go where no person has outreached before. 
- e. Prepare lessons for the team or for the team to share with others. 

When God gives you a word of encouragement for a person it's most often:

- a. Helping them learn about a topic. 
- b. Encouraging them to try something new. 
- c. Letting them know who they are in Christ. 
- d. Encouraging them about the future. 
- e. Sharing a personal testimony to build their faith. 

The Holy Spirit speaks to you most often through:

- a. Dreams and/or visions 
- b. Reading the Bible 
- c. Listening to a preacher 
- d. Reading a helpful Christian book 
- e. Thought impressions directly into your mind. 
- f. Audible voice (can hear His voice outside your ear) 
- g. Through senses of peace or lack of it. 

Note: Remember this is only a fun quiz. It's important not to stick an invisible label on yourself and wrongly think you can only be one thing, or only hear from God in one way.

How did you score? See the next page for the score key.

Mostly ⚡ Your tendency is to be a pioneering apostle keen to break new ground and ensure Heaven's culture is being discovered on earth.

Mostly ▲ Your tendency is to be a pastor, caring for Christians like a good shepherd cares for sheep.

Mostly 📖 Your tendency is to be a teacher, passionate to help others learn about God.

Mostly + Your tendency is to be an evangelist, always ready to share about Jesus and give people the opportunity to know Him.

Mostly 🕒 Your tendency is to be a prophet, sensitive to hearing from God and obedient to tell others what God wants them to hear from Him.

If your service is more than one role – that's totally okay! Many people find they serve well in multiple roles. Also it's possible for any one person to hear from God in multiple ways. If any of these roles stands out to you as something you're passionate about, I encourage you to keep growing in that office. I hope you enjoyed the quiz!

CREATION

by Hannah Stirling

God, **please** help me

To **understand**, and **see**

How with **power**

You **made** a **flower**

And **inside** the **flower**, a **bee**.



Photo by Max Carr



Mission: Connecting Christian writers in New Zealand.

Vision: To encourage and inspire Christian writers throughout New Zealand.

Values: Christian faith, God's Word, professionalism, quality and social outreach.

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Editor and Membership Secretary: Kathryn Paul: editor@nzchristianwriters.org

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The editor reserves the right to condense and/or edit any contributions for reason of space. Ideas and opinions will not be edited but editing of a technical nature may occur to maintain a high standard of writing. Views and opinions expressed do not necessarily state or reflect those of the editor.

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NZ Christian Writers' vision is to create a vibrant community of Christian writers by connecting them to other like-minded writers in New Zealand. We welcome both beginner and experienced writers.